

Abuser Intervention Programs: Where have we been and where are we headed?

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Funding for this project was made available through the US Department of Health and Human Services, Grant #90EV0440-01-00. The viewpoints contained in this document are solely the responsibility of the author(s) and do not represent the official views or policies of the department and do not in any way constitute an endorsement by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Where have we been and where are we headed? Abuser Intervention Programs April 18, 2018

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1960s-mid 70s

Historical Context to BIPs

- 1) Until the rise of the battered women's movement, victims were ignored or blamed for domestic violence.

Historical Context 1

Sigmund Freud, New Introductory Lectures on Psychotherapy, 1933

“Women refuse to accept the fact of being castrated and have the hope of someday obtaining a penis in spite of everything.... We must not allow ourselves to be deflected ... by the denials of feminists who are anxious to force us to regard the two sexes as completely equal in position and worth”

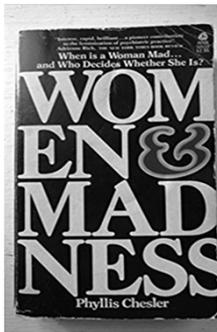
Historical Context 2

**The Wifebeater's Wife:
A Study of Family Interaction, 1964**
John Snell, MD, Richard Rosenwald, MD, Ames Robey, MD

Abstract: A family structure, which was found to be fairly common among the families of men whose wives brought against them complaints of assault and battery, is described. It is characterized by the husband's passivity, indecisiveness, sexual inadequacy; the wife's aggressiveness, masculinity, frigidity, and masochism; and a relationship between the 2 in which a frequent alternation of passive and aggressive roles serves to achieve a working equilibrium. The husband's drinking is often used as an aid to role alternation.

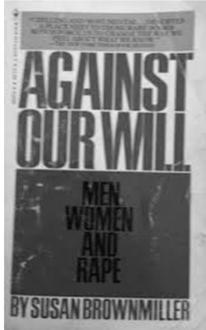
1970's-early 80's The beginnings of the movement

1972:



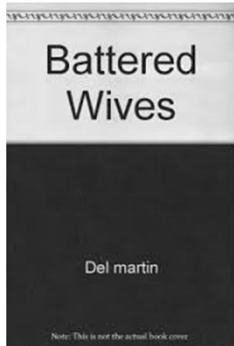
1970's-early 80's
The beginnings of the movement

1974:



1970's-early 80's
The beginnings of the movement

1976:



1970's-early 80's
The beginnings of the movement

1982:



Other Inspirations

- “The personal is political” Carol Hanisch, Shulamith Firestone, et al, 1960s
- 100% of domestic violence is caused by abusers; why should burden of change remain on victims? Emerge, 1977
- Abuse is a pattern of control, e.g. the power and control wheel, Ellen Pence, 1981
- Victim safety and empowerment are primary/Batterer intervention programs must be accountable to battered women, 1979, Barbara Hart

1970's-early 80's The beginning of the movement

Earliest abuser interventions

Ann Ganley, Tacoma VA Hospital
Emerge, Boston
RAVEN, St. Louis
Oakland Men's Project
MOVE, San Francisco
AMEND, Denver
Manalive, San Francisco
Men Stopping Violence, Atlanta

Early Abuser Interventions

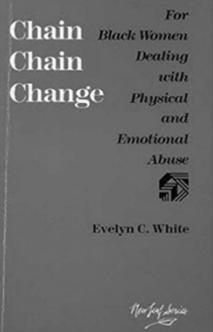
- Most were free-standing agencies
- Clients were not court-ordered (prior to mandatory arrest and court mandates)
- View IPV as a reflection of power and control, rather than a mental illness, or an aspect of 'family dysfunction'
- Viewed ourselves as social activists
- Devoted equal emphasis on community and institutional change
- Focused on helping to implement coordinated community response, DAIP

1980-mid 90s

- Focus on Coordinated Community Response, following example of DAIP
- New pro-arrest and sentencing policies dramatically increase court-referrals of abusers
- BIPs proliferated as a result
- Many BIPs were parts of larger institutions (not free standing)
- State standards began to be implemented

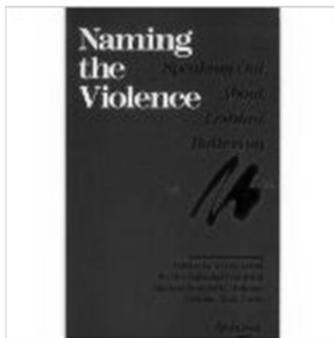
1980s-90s Building the movement

1985:



1980-90s Building the movement

1987:



1980s-90s
Building the movement

1993:

*For the Latina
in an
Abusive
Relationship*

**Mejor Sola
Que
Mal Acompañada**

*Para la Mujer
Golpeada*

Myrna M. Zambrano

Bilingual Edition
Edición Bilingüe

New York, NY

1990-10s

Emerging Problems and Backlash:

- Less partnership and accountability to victim advocacy programs
- Over-reliance on courts as referral sources
- Even with state standards, insufficient oversight
- Less emphasis on community outreach and social change
- Sometimes, lack of transparency
- Over-representation of men of color in BIPs
- Lack of cultural diversity among BIP staff and lack of relevance to minority/under-served populations
- Re-emergence of psychotherapeutic solutions

2010-present
Five Emerging Trends for BIPs

1) More attention to cultural diversity and cultural relevance.

**2010-present
Emerging Trends**

2) More wholistic focus on program participants

- Address other problems that contribute to resistance and program attrition, e.g. substance abuse, mental illness, unemployment, racial profiling, parenting problems
- Promote client engagement, e.g. motivational interviewing, goal-setting, problem-solving, self-care, focus on children

**2010-present
Emerging Trends**

3) Parenting education

- Integrated into BIP groups, e.g. Fathering After Violence Curriculum
- Stand-alone programs, Caring Dads, Responsible Fatherhood Program

**2010-present
Emerging Trends**

4) Broadened understanding of BIP purposes and roles

- Accountability vs punishment
- Risk assessment and management
- Outreach to partners
- Building community support for change
- Serve as resource for nonviolence and men's accountability in community

Brief Local History

- 1980 DAIP organizes as a non-profit
- 1981 Duluth Police issue first mandatory arrest policy in the country
- 1982 Duluth Coordinated Community Response is officially agreed to by nine agencies
- 1983 Power and Control Wheel developed and men's groups begin
- 1984 Co-facilitation between men and women begins
- 1986 Group formed for Native Men who batter
- 1990 Equality Wheel developed
- 2007 Working with Christian Men Who Batter and AFFP's "Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter" supplements added to men's curriculum Equality Log developed / Blueprint Community Participant
- 2012 Turning Points: A Non-Violence Curriculum for Women was written for women court ordered to women's groups
- 2013 Naming the Tactics Manual

1. What has Continued and been Validated from the Beginning

- a) Coordinated Community Response (CCR) is the most effective intervention model, not just a stand alone BIP
- b) Principles of a BIP based in the priority of a battered woman's safety
- c) Power and Control wheel

a) Coordinated Community Response

An interagency effort to change the climate of tolerance of battering by institutionalizing practices and procedures which centralize victim safety and offender accountability in domestic assault related cases.

Coordinated Community Response (CCR)
Developed and created by DAIP in collaboration with criminal and civil justice agencies, community members, advocates, and victims

- Written policies guiding practitioners at each point of intervention that centralize victim safety and offender accountability and that coordinate an interagency intervention strategy.
- Protocols and procedures that link practitioners from different agencies and disciplines.
- An entity (preferably independent of the court) that tracks and monitors cases and assesses data.
- An interagency process that encourages practitioners to work together in a strategic manner to resolve problems.
- A process that allows for dialogue and problem-solving by focusing on systemic problems of an organization rather than on individual workers between criminal and civil justice agencies, community members and victims, to close gaps and improve the community's response to battering.
- A central role for advocates and victims in defining and evaluating the interagency intervention model.
- A commitment to support each other's attempts to secure adequate resources to respond to these cases.

b) Principles of the Men's Nonviolence Program have not changed for the most part

1. The program purpose is to increase the safety of women and children
2. The reference point for understanding battering is the experience of women who have been battered
3. The program focus is on deconstructing men's historical and socially constructed entitlement to be violent to women

b) Principles (cont'd)

4. An ongoing, formal relationship with shelter/court advocates is a critical part of providing safety for women and children
5. Critical dialogue is central to creating an educational process of change for men who batter (Began with anger management and changed to critical dialogue)

b) Principles (cont'd)

- 6. The men's nonviolence program recognizes and responds to the advocacy, safety and empowerment needs of the women whose partners are in the program.

- 7. The men's nonviolence program is a component of a larger interagency response to battering.

c) Power and Control Wheel

- Developed in Duluth, MN at DAIP in 1983
- Most widely used graphic in the domestic violence field
- Created for men's groups in Duluth, MN
- Translated in over 30 languages and adapted to over 20 different cultural contexts.
- Go to: www.theduluthmodel.org and click on "Wheels"

2) What we Have Learned and Changed

- a) Anger management to Dialogical approach
- b) How to address accountability
- c) Needed to focus on Equality more than Power & Control
- d) Collusion
- e) Importance of co-facilitation
- f) Culturally relevant groups are critical – Native American men's group and for Christian men who Batter

a) From Anger Management to Dialogical Approach

- Cycle of Violence theory was being used in support groups and too many women were saying the theory did not apply to their experience.
- Started with anger management and facilitators recognized that men were not “angry” or violent in other places in their lives.
- Taught men “cues”; facilitators kept hearing their beliefs of entitlement
- Gave men homework – women told us that they were being forced to do the homework

a) The Role of the Facilitator in the Dialogical Approach –Paulo Freire

- Be authentic
- Promote dialogue without collusion
- Work with lived experience rather than theory
- Challenge without judgment
- Make connections and expose contradictions
- Encourage critical thinking
- Simultaneously see the beauty the men bring to the world and the threat they pose

b) How to address Accountability

- Used to “make” men talk about the domestic violence as it was written in the police report. Advocates pushed for this version of accountability to happen in the men’s groups.
- No longer do “check-ins” in the following way:
 - My name is John.....
 - “On June 24, 2017 I was emotionally and physically abusive to my partner when I
 - They were not authentic dialogue and were not a catalyst for men’s change process

c) Equality Wheel

- In the newest version of the DAIP curriculum the Equality Wheel became the focus
- Previously the “What do different” was often last and facilitators often struggled with this part.
- Equality Log in the DAIP curriculum exposes men’s thinking and resistance to an equal relationship with their partners. It became a big motivator when the effects of equality were examined.

d) Collusion

Anytime we facilitate in a way that keeps men in class from critically examining themselves and the world that informed them, we collude.

d) Examples of Collusion

- Not linking our practice with the experience of victims of battering
- Facilitators not working from partnership
- Creating resistance with men in class
- Not addressing sexist clothing, jokes, and judgments about women
- Thinking of conflict as a relationship problem
- Thinking of any type of violence as battering
- Not committing ourselves to addressing our own entitlements

d) Skill Practice as Type of Collusion

- A strong trend in BIPs to incorporate skill practice
- Focuses on improving behavior by teaching the “right way”
- Doesn’t account for the risks generated to the victim
- Is a solution for relationship problems not men who batter

e) Co-Facilitation

- Having two facilitators – a male/female team is critical
- Previously, we allowed two men, one man, or two women to co-facilitate
- We learned that we model equality not just in what we say, but what we do
 - Woman facilitator also starts the class and speaks first
 - Woman facilitator does not do the “cleaning up” of the room alone
 - Male facilitator does the “administrative” part in the room – sign-in, take money, make the coffee
- When the woman facilitator speaks the male co-facilitator turns his body and attention towards her

f) Culturally relevant groups are critical

- Native Men’s program, curricula, and co-facilitators
- Christian men who batter program, curricula, co-facilitators, and held in a local church basement
- Do NOT use men’s group curricula with women

3) What's new in our work

- a) Blueprint for Safety
- b) Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter
- c) Three types of domestic violence is more commonly used
- d) Videoconference pilot project

a) Blueprint for Safety

The Blueprint for Safety is sometimes known by some as "Advanced CCR". St. Paul, MN was the first site to create the original "Blueprint for Safety." Duluth, MN was one of the first three OVW demonstrations sites for the Blueprint. The following are the Blueprint for Safety intervention principles:

1. Adhere to an interagency approach and collective intervention goals.
2. Build attention to the context and severity of abuse into each intervention.
3. Recognize that most domestic violence is a patterned crime requiring continuing engagement with victims and offenders.
4. Ensure sure and swift consequences for continued abuse.
5. Use the power of the criminal justice system to send messages of help and accountability.
6. Act in ways that reduce unintended consequences and the disparity of impact on victims and offenders.

b) Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter

- Chosen to be a pilot site for "Fathering After Violence" from OVW Safe Havens grantees
- Created a supplement to the Duluth Men's BIP curricula entitled, "Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter"
- Did interviews with adults who grew up in a home with a father who battered their mother, multiple focus groups with battered women and men who batter.
- Four themes emerged to address with men in a BIP:
 - 1) Men's childhood experience with their fathers
 - 2) Impact of battering on children and their mothers
 - 3) Becoming nurturing and child-centered fathers
 - 4) Becoming a more supportive and respectful parenting partner

c) Naming Three Types of Domestic Violence

- 1) Coercive controlling violence and abuse – also known as battering
 - 2) Resistive domestic violence
 - 3) Abuse and violence unrelated to coercive control
- Aided in the development of curricula specific to women who were arrested and court ordered to a group

References: Pence, Connelly, & Scala, "Turning Points: A Non-Violence Curriculum for Women" – www.dvturningpoints.com
Evan Stark, "How Men Entrap Women in their Personal Life", Rutgers University

d) Videoconference BIP Pilot Project

- Difference between on-line education course at your own pace and a live videoconference.
- These private companies are offering it with motives that are unknown
- Will be a pilot project with experienced facilitators with no need or preconception about if it should be replicated
- We know that in-person is a better option.
- Addresses the needs of men in rural America (with decent internet) and men who travel for work

4) Where we are headed that is problematic

- Courts and communities who rely on BIPs only to end the domestic violence
- Programs and curricula that are disconnected from advocates and battered women's lived experiences
- Research that makes problematic claims and conclusions
- Programs in it for the money (?) – private providers
- Still too many facilitators who "teach" and do not "learn"

4) Where we are headed that is encouraging

- More attention to cultural diversity and relevance in programming
- Programs across the US and world are better connected
- More holistic and humanistic approach with men in groups
- Realization that a BIP must be part of a CCR
- Most battered women, when asked, want their abusive partner to have an opportunity to change
- Programs and communities that are committed to keeping women safe as their priority

Resources

Global Rights for Women
www.globalrightsforwomen.org

Domestic Violence Turning Points – Women’s Curricula
www.dvturningpoints.com

Domestic Abuse Intervention Programs
www.theduluthmodel.org

Mending the Sacred Hoop
www.msh-ta.org

Battered Women’s Justice Project
www.bwjp.org

Praxis International
www.praxisinternational.org

Contact Information

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www.globalrightsforwomen.org – International Training Director

www.domesticviolenceexpert.net - Expert Witness Testimony

www.dvturningpoints.com – Working with Women Who Use Violence

www.theduluthmodel.org – Addressing Fatherhood with Men Who Batter
